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# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CHAIRMAN HÉBERT ON WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

Chairman Curt L. Hébert, Jr. said today he was honored by President Bush's decision to name him to head the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission effective January 22.

Chairman Hébert commented: "I am deeply grateful and honored to be appointed Chairman by the President. These are challenging times for the Commission as the bulk power markets continue to move toward full and fair competition and more fully embrace the tenets of the free enterprise system. I believe this system is part of the solution rather than part of the problem for the malfunctioning markets on the West Coast. I will do my utmost to see that competition is encouraged, that it is fair, that consumers have genuine choice, and that the public interest is safeguarded."

Chairman Hébert has served as a Commissioner since 1997. His present term expires in 2004.

The new Chairman has become widely recognized as an ardent supporter of free enterprise and a devotee of market forces as the ultimate regulator. In his home state of Mississippi, he was regarded, as one newspaper put it, as "an unabashed champion of competition." He continues that reputation at the federal level.

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Before coming to FERC, Chairman Hébert was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1987 to 1992. He served as Chairman of the House Oil and Gas Committee and Chairman of the Ways and Means Severance Subcommittee. His legislative and leadership abilities were recognized in June 1992 by Governor Kirk Fordice when he appointed Mr. Hébert to the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

At

29, he became the youngest Public Service Commissioner in the nation and in Mississippi's history. He was elected to a second term in 1995. He served on the Mississippi Commission until 1997, and as Chairman of the Commission from 1994 to 1996.

During his tenure at the Mississippi Commission, Mr. Hébert was a President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and served on both the Executive Committee and the Electricity Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He has been widely published on industry and regulatory issues. Last year, The Bonbright Center for the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia honored him for his publications and market-oriented philosophy of regulation, naming him the 2000 Bonbright Honoree.

In 1985, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Juris Doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law in 1990. He is a member of the Energy Bar Association, the Mississippi Bar Association, and the National Bar Association.

Chairman Hébert is a native of Pascagoula, Mississippi. He and his wife Virginia have two daughters, Lane and Ashley.